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**THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC-#3025-80/1

28 April 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment  
National Intelligence Officer for Warning  
FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Africa  
SUBJECT : Warning Report: Sub-Saharan Africa

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1. Action Requested: None; the attached report is for your information.

2. Background: Community representatives and specialists met on 22 April with the NIO/AF as chairman. The attached report has not been coordinated with the other participants, but is being circulated to them. If they feel their views have been misrepresented, or if they have significant additional concerns, I'll report further to you.



I. Gray Cowan  
National Intelligence Officer  
for Africa

Attachment  
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SUBJECT: Warning Report: Sub-Saharan Africa

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NFAC #3025-80

24 April 1980

## WARNING REPORT: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA\* No. 18

LIBERIA

1. The meeting devoted primary attention to the situation in Liberia. It was felt that we should not relax on our evacuation procedures inasmuch as there was still uncertainty regarding the real sources of control in the new government and no clear understanding of its inner workings. (Subsequent to the meeting the announcement of the shooting of the former Cabinet members reinforces our concern over future developments.) There have been a number of veiled references to the vulnerability of US installations in Liberia indicating that the new government is aware of the leverage these afford.

2. Special emphasis was laid on the possibility of the spillover effect of the Liberian revolution into neighboring countries. The demonstration effect of Liberia on lower ranks of the military may give rise to similar attempts elsewhere. Sierra Leone and Ghana were specifically singled out for close observation over the next three months. The governments of Ivory Coast and Nigeria are already taking special efforts to watch their own military closely.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

3. Attention was drawn to the recent discontent that has surfaced in public demonstrations by colored school children in South Africa, but it was felt that this was a situation that could be handled by the South African government. Nevertheless, their grievances are shared by black students as well. In some respect, the situation is similar to that leading to the Soweto riots of 1976. Both anti-South African liberation movements, the PAC and ANC, have been disappointed in the failure of southern African leaders to offer them support, but it was felt that both organizations are at the present time in such a degree of disorganization that they do not pose any meaningful threat to the Pretoria government. The situation in Zambia deserves watching over

\*This memorandum is one of a series produced monthly by NIO/AF. Its purpose is to review possible developments in the short-term future that would be damaging to US interests. Obviously many of these developments will not occur in the time-frame or in the manner suggested, or will not occur at all.

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the next three months because it seems clear that a Soviet reassessment of its relationship with Zambia is going on. Analysts felt that because of Party and military frustrations with President Kaunda's policies that Zambia may offer a real opportunity for the Soviets to make new inroads into southern Africa.

#### ZAIRE

4. Analysts' concern over the situation in Zaire is again rising. Recent traffic has been disturbing in that the economic situation continues to deteriorate seriously, and demonstrations and strikes by university students and teachers indicate a further decline in the morale of the civilian population. The situation is probably somewhat more touchy this year than last because the military and their families are suffering from the same problems of inflation and declining standard of living as are the civilians. The meeting concluded that the internal scene in Zaire is tense and the convergence of the forces of discontent could give rise to severe disturbances that may arise from a totally unforeseen incident.

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#### HORN OF AFRICA

5. Concern was expressed re the serious situation in the refugee camps where there are now more than 600,000 refugees with more than 700,000 additional refugees outside the camps. Drought and the continuing warfare in the Ogaden will increase these numbers and make more serious the threat posed by the refugee problem to the Siad regime. Fighting in the Ogaden is likely to continue at the present level and may even increase as the Ethiopians continue to receive new Soviet weaponry for possible offenses in Eritrea and the Ogaden. The psychological, rather than the physical, effect of increased Ethiopian air strikes could undermine Siad's position.

#### FOOD SHORTAGES IN AFRICA

6. The shortfall of food in many African countries is highlighted by the recent critical shortage of rice in Liberia after the revolution. This immediate problem has been alleviated, but short food supplies in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zambia and Kenya could all give rise to outbreaks of political unrest, particularly if it were combined with the serious effects of inflation.

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